

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 11-18 and cancel claim 3 without prejudice as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for downloading an initialization file for a cable modem comprising:

a tuner unit ~~for tuning~~ adapted to receive, tune and outputting a plurality of downstream signals received from a cable modem termination system and to receive, tune and output a plurality of upstream signals to the cable modem termination system;

a downstream unit adapted to demodulate ~~for demodulating~~ the downstream signals from the tuner unit and ~~separating separate~~ general data from a media access control (MAC) management message;

a message processor ~~for~~ adapted to detecting a configuration file ~~name information and~~ manufacturing automation protocol (MAP) information according to the MAC management message input from the downstream unit;

a non-volatile memory ~~for storing~~ adapted to store the configuration file ~~name information~~ detected by the message processor;

a CPU ~~for~~ adapted to controlling the message processor; and

an upstream unit ~~for generating/modulating~~ adapted to generate and modulate the upstream signal according to the MAP information detected by the message processor, wherein the message processor stores the detected configuration file in the non-volatile memory only when the detected configuration file is a more recent version than a configuration file previously stored in the non-volatile memory.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the general data of the downstream unit is transmitted to a display unit that can be viewed by a user through an MPEG 2 transport stream interface, and the MAC management message is transmitted to the message processor.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the CPU compares ~~the a~~ name of the configuration file name information detected by the message processor to ~~the a name~~ of the configuration file name information previously stored in the non-volatile memory and selects the configuration file ~~name information~~ of a later version.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the message processor parses the format of information related to the detected configuration file ~~name information~~ into a configuration file name part and a configuration file version part with a delimiter part therebetween.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the format of the information related to the detected configuration file ~~name information includes~~ comprises a file name part indicating a configuration file name, a file version part indicating a configuration file version ~~information~~, and a delimiter part differentiating the file name part and the file version part.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the non-volatile memory stores the configuration file ~~name information~~ for initializing the cable modem.

8. (Currently amended) An initialization file for a cable modem, the initialization file comprising ~~a format of a configuration file, and further comprising:~~

a file name part indicating a configuration file name;
a file version part indicating configuration file version information; and
a delimiter part between the configuration file name part and the configuration file version part, the delimiter part having a finite size such that the file name part and file version part border the delimiter part.

9. (Previously presented) The initialization file of claim 8, wherein the configuration file version information is encoded together with the configuration file name in a boot file name region of a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) message format.

10. (Previously presented) The initialization file of claim 8, wherein the file version part indicates the file version information as one of a time value defined in an RFC868, a time protocol, and a string form of number information.

11. (Currently amended) A method for downloading an initialization file for a cable modem, the method comprising:

registering information related to a detected configuration file ~~name-information~~ in a DHCP server;

receiving the information related to the detected configuration file ~~name-information~~ registered in the DHCP server;

comparing the received configuration file ~~name-information~~ with information related to a previously stored configuration file-name-information;

downloading the ~~received-first detected~~ configuration file ~~name-information~~ only if one of the a name of the detected configuration file is different from a name of the previously stored configuration file and the a version of the received- detected configuration file ~~name-information~~ is more recent ~~file-than the- a version of the~~ previously stored configuration file ~~name-information~~;

updating the a memory with the downloaded configuration file ~~name-information~~; and

registering a cable modem by using the ~~stored- downloaded~~ configuration file ~~name-information~~.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein receiving the information related to the detected configuration file ~~name-information~~ comprises:

parsing the ~~first~~ configuration file ~~name-information~~ as ~~received~~ into a file name part and a file version part.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein comparing the received configuration file ~~name-information~~ with the previously stored configuration file ~~name-information~~ comprises:

comparing ~~a~~ the file name of the received- detected configuration file name information ~~with to~~ the name of the stored configuration file ~~name information~~;

downloading the ~~received configuration file name information~~ if the name of the received detected configuration file name and the name of the stored configuration file name are different; and

comparing the version of the received- detected configuration file version to the version of the stored configuration file version if the name of the received- detected configuration file name is identical to the name of the stored configuration file name and downloading the ~~received detected configuration file name information~~ if the version of the received- detected configuration file version is more recent than the version of the stored configuration file version.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, ~~wherein comparing further comprises comprising:~~

performing a registration process of the cable modem by using the stored configuration file ~~name information~~ if the version of the received- detected configuration file version is one of older than and the same as the version of the stored configuration file version.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the format of the information related to the detected configuration file name information and the stored configuration file comprises:

- a file name part indicating a configuration file name;
- a file version part indicating a configuration file version; and
- a delimiter part between the file name part and the file version part.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the stored configuration files ~~name information~~ is downloaded when initializing the cable modem.

17. (Currently amended) A method for downloading an initialization file for a cable modem, the method comprising:

constructing a first configuration file information with a file name part, a file version part and a delimiter part, the delimiter part having a finite size such that the file name part and file version part border the delimiter part, and registering the configuration file information in a DHCP server, the first configuration file information corresponding to a received detected configuration file;

receiving the first configuration file name-information registered in the DHCP server;
parsing the ~~received~~ first configuration file name-information into a file name part and a file version part;

reading second configuration file information corresponding to a previously downloaded configuration file name-information;

comparing the ~~received~~ file name part of the first configuration file name-information to a file name part of the previously second downloaded configuration file name-information;

downloading the ~~received~~ detected configuration file name-information if the file name part of the first received configuration file name-information and the file name part of the second previously downloaded configuration file name-information are different and comparing the file version part of the first received configuration file version-information to the a file version part of the second previously downloaded configuration file version-information only if the file name part of the first received configuration file name-information is identical to the file name part of the second previously downloaded configuration file name-information; and

downloading the ~~received~~ detected configuration file name-information if the file version part of the first received configuration file version-information is more recent than the file version part of the second previously downloaded configuration file version-information and reading the previously downloaded configuration file ~~name-information~~ if the file version part of the first received configuration file version-information is one of older than and the same as the file version part of the second previously downloaded configuration file version-information; and

performing a registration process using one of the ~~received~~ detected configuration file name-information and the previously downloaded configuration file ~~name-information~~ according to the comparison result.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein if the ~~received~~ detected configuration file ~~name-information~~ is an initialization file that is first input to the cable modem, the first configuration file ~~name-information~~ is stored in the memory and the registration process is performed using the ~~received~~ first configuration file ~~name-information~~.